

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-16. (Canceled) without prejudice or disclaimer

17. (Currently Amended) A container-filling device for lost-foam casting systems, including in a single operational combination:

-supporting means for containers with associated vibration means to set said containers into vibration;

-sand-feeding means for feeding dosed quantities of sand into said containers; and

-positioning means associated with said containers to position foam models into said containers and support said models both while the sand is being fed into the containers by said feeding means and while the containers containing said models are being vibrated by said vibration means;

wherein said positioning means include first model gripping means connected to said positioning means for gripping said models, and second container gripping means connected to said positioning means for gripping said containers, so that, with said first and second gripping means gripping, respectively, the models and the container, the models will be kept firmly in a fixed position with respect to the container during the vibrational motion generated by said vibration means.

18. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with Claim 17, including control means to bring said first and second gripping means into their gripping positions while said vibration means are operating.

19. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 17, wherein said first and second gripping means comprise a clamp structure.

20. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 17, wherein said second gripping means have associated with them means for bringing them back into their open position.

21. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 17, wherein said positioning means have associated with them a respective moving structure from which said positioning means can be disengaged.

22. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 21, also including mobile equipment movable between a lowered portion and a raised portion with respect to said containers and wherein said sand-feeding means and said positioning means are carried by said mobile equipment.

23. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with Claim 22, wherein said moving structure includes a frame that is connected as a single piece with the said mobile equipment and sustains said positioning means, which rest on it so that when the said mobile equipment is in its lowered position relative to said container, said positioning means will

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 09/512,815
Attorney Docket Q57966
November 12, 2003

become transferred to and rest on the said container, so that the moving structure will be disengaged from both said positioning means and said container.

24. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 23, wherein said positioning means and the associated moving structure are provided with complementary centering formations ensuring accurate positioning of said positioning means and the said moving structure relative to the said container.

25. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said complementary formations include at least one pin element engagable with a corresponding cavity.

26. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said complementary formations include a fork structure.

27-28. (Canceled) without prejudice or disclaimer.